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course will feel more interest to continue study and will accomplish more and better work in later courses.

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#### THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION<sup>1</sup>

THE St. Louis session of the American Medical Association was an unqualified success. From the scientific point of view, and from the effect in the promotion of a closer and more harmonious organization of the profession, as well as of social interest, little more could have been desired. The registration was a little over four thousand, a number exceeded only twice—at Boston and at Chicago.

In the scientific interest and in the earnestness and fulness of the discussions on the topics presented the section meetings equaled or surpassed those of any previous session. Every section had profitable meetings and the attendance in each was good. Especially notable were the symposiums in the Section on Preventive Medicine and Public Health on hookworm, pellagra and typhoid fever, and in the Section on Pathology and Physiology on cancer—subjects which, aside from their interest to the profession, have particular interest for the public, because of the widespread morbidity and mortality which they cause, especially in the instances of typhoid fever and cancer. Indeed, it is interesting to note the many points at which the papers throughout the whole program of this session touched the public directly in the matter of hygiene, sanitation and prevention. It is a reflection of the wide-spread interest of the public in what is being done in medicine. In many respects the Section on Preventive Medicine was the most interesting of the session. Cancer, with its frightful mortality and increasing prevalence, was probably the most prominent subject of the session, being considered in one or more of its aspects in almost every section, far outshadowing tu-

berculosis in this respect. In some of the other sections symposiums on diabetes, the infectious diseases and eclampsia, with the discussions, served to clear the atmosphere about many mooted questions. There were many other interesting features of the scientific program, but space forbids further mention of them here.

The meetings of the house of delegates were harmonious throughout. Each succeeding year the reference committees are doing more and more work, making it possible to investigate thoroughly all the various propositions that come before the house; and thus the house is able to accomplish much more, and to do the work in a deliberate, satisfactory manner. Of the important things done by the house of delegates, one was the creation of a new Section on Genito-urinary Diseases, as petitioned for by many members doing work in that line. Another was the creation of the Council on Health and Public Instruction, which is to have charge of the work formerly done by several overlapping committees, covering such matters as preventive medicine, medical legislation, economics, public instruction in medical, sanitary and hygienic questions, etc. The council will organize complete machinery to facilitate the attainment of these objects.

Any impression that there was the slightest lack of harmony in the organization was dispelled by the work of the house of delegates and by the spirit shown in the daily work; and any attempted disparagement of the aims and purposes of the American Medical Association was silenced by the splendid statement of them contained in the address of President Welch at the general meeting. That the public correctly understands these aims and endorses them was evinced in the admirable address of Governor Hadley and the other gentlemen who spoke at the general meeting.

#### THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF DENISON UNIVERSITY

At Denison University, Granville, Ohio, the new astronomical observatory, presented by Mr. Ambrose Swasey, of Cleveland, was opened

<sup>1</sup> From the *Journal* of the Association.